(D) whether these vessels were purchased by ONGC only a few ago and before inviting tendei whether Government's approval taken ; and

(c) if so, what were the offers vis-a-vis expected selling price of the vesst what was the initial cost of these vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) In order to shed low and medium technological areas and to concentrate on their main line of business, ONGC have a proposal to divest their fleet of offshore supply vessels acquired by them a few years back, partly by sale and partly by forming a joint venture company with Shipping Corporation of India for managing/ operation of these vessels. No final decision has been taken so far.

Findings of the enquiry committe* in regard to blow-out at SEDCO-252 Jack-up rig in Daman Offshore

2035. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to .state:

(a) whether a high level enquiry instituted on a blow-out at SEDCO-2^2 Jack-up Rig in Daman off-shore has been completed; if so, what are its findings;

(b) what is the level of enquiry and whether the recommendations of the enquiry committee will be made public;

(c) what is the estimated loss in terms of men, money and material and whether adequate safety measure were taken to prevent the tragedy;

(d) whether ONGC employees have ever represented to ONGC authorities regarding inadequate safety measures, if so, what action has been taken; and

(e) whether any organisation has brought out inadequacies of safety s in offshore drilling, if so, what are thi thereof and action taken

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTI ONGC have headed by Group Genera] Man ombay Regional Business Centri. re into the cause that led to the blow-out incident at the charter-hired jack-up rig SEDCO-FOREX. and to make recommen" r remedial measures to prevent such gs in future. The enquiry is in pr

(c) Three perso ost their lives. The tentative cost of material lost ng third party materials in the mishap at the rig would be approximately US $ 2 million and the cost of re-drilling would be approximately US$ 0.8 million.

ONGC is protected by its insurance policies for the loss of ONGC/third party equipments on the rig and also for the cost of re-dnlling the well to the same depth.

(e) ONGC's Safety and Environment Management Divison (SEM) of Bombay Regional Business Centre (BRBC) had carried out a safety audit of offshore platform and rigs and found certain shortcomings like non-completion of fire water-pumps, mainly on unmanned well platforms, defective safety system in some wells, need for repair of some life boats. Following the audit, corrective action wa*'taken by BRBC. As a result, defective pumps and life boats arid safety system have been checked and their number reduced. In order to monitor safety measures, a four-tier safety check and inspection of platforms and rigs by senior officers has been instituted and measures to increase safety awareness among employees have been initiated.